



GRASSROOTS

KYLE SCHELL, EDITOR • SDSU • BOX 2170 • BROOKINGS, SD 57007 • kyle.schell@sdstate.edu • (605) 688-6623

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(605) 649-7629

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(605) 894-4448

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21757 375th Ave
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(605) 458-2376

Spring Fever

This winter has been a long one; however, we are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. This week we have experienced above-normal temperatures for the first time in a long time and the snow is beginning to melt. With all of this nice weather, I am anxious for summer as the South Dakota Grassland Coalition has many great events lined up again. The Bird Tour will be on June 17-18 near White Lake. There will be a tour of Doud's Ranch, last year's Leopold Award winners, on July 29. We are working on several pasture walks including one in the Black Hills on an allotment that is managed with Holistic Management. South Dakota Range Camp will be held in June at Sturgis. As well as, the South Dakota Grazing School in September. There are a lot of events being held this summer and we hope you will be able to attend as many as you can. For more information about these events, please go to the calendar of events or watch for them in this newsletter. Please contact Kyle Schell if there is a workshop or pasture walk that you would like to be held in your area. Thank you, and enjoy the nice weather we are having!

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SPRING FEVER

**LEOPOLD AWARD – SKEE
RASMUSSEN FUND**

RANGE CAMP

SRM MEETING

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information or other events the **SOUTH DAKOTA GRASSLAND COALITION** is involved with, please contact Kyle Schell or visit the website: <http://www.sdgrass.org>

Leopold Award – Skee Rasmussen Fund

The nomination deadline for the Leopold Award is April 27th, which is earlier than last year's date. If you'll recall, we also held a fund raiser for the Skee Rasmussen Fund to the Leopold Award last fall. I am proud to report that we met our goal of \$1000, which placed the fund in the Silver Sponsorship category. Thank you to all who supported this fund. The South Dakota Grassland Coalition was one of Skee's favorite groups and he was a founding board member of the Coalition as it embodied Skee's principles of rangeland conservation. Today, the South Dakota Grassland Coalition Board is grateful for Skee's contribution to rangeland conservation and strives to keep this fund alive. To accomplish this, we will again need your help. Please consider a contribution to the fund by mailing your tax-deductible contribution (check or money order), made payable to Sand County Foundation, to Skee Rasmussen Leopold Fund, c/o Sand County Foundation, 16 N Carroll St. Suite 450, Madison, WI 53703. You will be doing your part to ensure that Skee Rasmussen and Aldo Leopold's legacies will endure through the recognition of the Leopold Conservation Award recipients.

36th Annual SD Youth Range Camp

Training tomorrow's leaders today in range and natural resource management and the stewardship of natural resources.

Approximately 50% of the state of South Dakota is comprised of rangelands. Management needs of these rangelands are diverse and require innovative approaches for good management. Users of rangelands are varied. Most people think only of beef cattle; however wildlife and humans are also users. Rangelands are a type of land, not a land use.

The 36th Annual Youth Range Camp will be held on June 6-8 at the Brown High School and Western Dakota Technical Institute in Sturgis. The camp will provide our young range

managers hands-on experience with rangeland resources. Campers will learn about range plant identification, ecological sites, similarity index, stocking rates, wildlife habitat on rangelands, range improvements, rangeland ecology, plant anatomy and growth, soils and geology, and information about careers in rangeland management. This camp is available to all young adults, male and female, from 14 through 18 years of age who have a sincere desire to learn more about the range resource and its management. Youth from town or country are equally welcome. It is not necessary to be a member of FFA, 4-H, etc. Permission of parent or guardian is required.



Participants at last year's South Dakota Range Camp

The teaching staff and facilities limit participation to 60 campers and enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. A limited number of returning campers will be allowed. Registration deadline is April 22nd.

This year a \$500 SDSU Range Science Scholarship, sponsored by the SDSU Dean of Agriculture, will be awarded to the top-placing returning camper at Range Camp.

The cost to attend this camp will be \$80 and must be submitted with the registration form. Refunds are not guaranteed if cancellations are received after April 22nd. Campers are encouraged to seek sponsorship from Conservation Districts, banks, 4-H or FFA

groups as well as private individuals. Range camp is not simply a day camp. Once you arrive at camp on Monday, be prepared to stay through Wednesday. Each camper must bring a sleeping bag and all other items needed for the duration of the camp. Comfortable shoes or boots are also required as considerable time will be spent on your feet. For more information regarding Range Camp, or to obtain a brochure, please contact Derek Oliver at 605-967-2561 or Derek.oliver@sd.usda.gov.

SRM MEETING - BILLINGS, MT

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management was held in Billings, MT Feb 5-10th. The Society for Range Management's (SRM) Board of Directors voted on Tuesday, February 8th, 2011 to approve SDSU's accreditation of the Range Science undergraduate program. This past fall SDSU completed a self-evaluation report which concluded with a site visitation by an appointed SRM team in early November. SDSU will be joining nine other universities currently accredited by SRM among the 40+ universities and colleges that offer range degrees.

Competition teams results:

The SDSU Undergraduate Range Management Exam (URME) team placed 4th out of 25 universities. The URME team is coached by **Dr. Sandy Smart**, Associate Professor in the Animal and Range Sciences Department. The SDSU Range Plant ID team placed 3rd out of 20 universities. The Range Plant ID team is coached by **Dr. Gary Larson**, Professor in the Plant Science Department and adjunct professor in the Animal and Range Science. **Harlan Bergeleen** placed 4th and **Ben Lardy** placed 5th in the combined competition. The following undergraduate students competed for SDSU on the URME and Range Plant ID teams: **Wyatt Kirwan** (URME) – Omaha, NE, **Jared Brown** (URME) – Chester, SD, **Kyle Dalzell** (URME)- Lemmon, SD, **Westin Ginther** (ID, URME)- Lemmon, SD, **Ben Lardy** (ID, URME) –

Burnsville, MN, **Harlan Bergeleen** (ID, URME) – Wessington Springs, SD, **Reed Scott** (ID, URME) – Wessington Springs, SD, **Ryan Frickel** (ID, URME) – Atkinson, NE, **Megan Mortellaro** (URME)- Philip, SD, and **Emily Helms** (ID, URME) – Wall, SD.

Poster presentations were made by the following individuals:

- **Sandy Smart** (URME Coach) – “Harvest efficiency of ultra-high stocking density grazing”.
- **Matthew Rigge** (Redwood Falls, MN - graduate student under Dr. Sandy Smart) “Analyzing the effect of slope aspect and phenology on biomass production in western South Dakota grasslands using MODIS NDVI”.
- **Kyle Schell** (Wasta, SD - graduate student under Dr. Eric Mousel) “Restoring native tallgrass prairie and improving profitability on eastern South Dakota grasslands with intensive early stocking”.
- **Chris Misar** (Scotland, SD - graduate student under Dr. Roger Gates and Dr. Lan Xu) “No-till interseeding yellow-flowered alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* subsp. *Falcata*) into crested wheatgrass stands: Initial establishment”.



SDSU Range Team in Billings, MT for International SRM Meeting

Congratulations to SDSU Range Club for their accomplishments at the SRM Meeting in Billings!

Congratulations to the SDSU Animal Science Department for their Range Science Program being accredited at SRM Meeting in Billings!



Kyle Schell
Box 2170, ASC 105, SDSU
Brookings, SD 57007

Calendar of events:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone No.</u>
Ag Day	March 19	Sioux Falls, SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
Climate Change Workshop	April 20-21	Rapid City, SD	Judge Jessop	605-280-0127
State Technical Meeting	April 26	Huron, SD	Jim Faulstich	605-852-2622
Prescribed Fire Training	April 30	Watertown, SD	Cody Grewing	605-874-8517
SD Youth Range Camp	June 6-8	Sturgis, SD	Derek Oliver	605-967-2561
Outdoor Expo.	June 11-12	Huron, SD		
SDGC Bird Tour	June 17-18	White Lake, SD	Judge Jessop	605-280-0127
State Technical Meeting	June 28	Ft. Pierre, SD	Jim Faulstich	605-852-2622
Doud's Ranch Tour	July 29	Midland, SD	Judge Jessop	605-280-0127
America's Grassland Con.	Aug 15-17	Sioux Falls, SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
State Technical Meeting	Aug 30	Pierre, SD	Jim Faulstich	605-852-2622
SD Grazing School	Sep 12-16	Chamberlain, SD	Kyle Schell	605-688-6623
State Technical Meeting	Nov 13	Huron, SD	Jim Faulstich	605-852-2622

Please remit any comments, suggestions, or topics deemed necessary for further review to: Kyle Schell, SDSU Box 2170, Brookings SD 57007, kyle.schell@sdstate.edu, (605) 688-6623